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ABSTRACT

To assess the informational and recreational reading needs of the inmates in Texas prison units, surveys were conducted at one male and one female correctional facility. Prison populations were identified by age, race, and educational level. Subjects for the preference study were asked questions regarding: (1) reading background; (2) book preferences; (3) newspapers and magazines; (4) television and radio; (5) music; and (6) other background information. The survey results are presented in tabular summaries. The appendixes contain copies of survey questionnaires. (EMH)

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MATCHING THE LIBRARY AND THE INMATE: DETERMINING INMATE INTERESTS IN ORDER TO BETTER REFINE LIBRARY SERVICES.

The research reported herein was obtained by administering a general interest survey to two special library user groups: prisoners in one men's institution, and one women's institution in Texas Department of Corrections.

Men's Unit: Ferguson

Women't Unit: Gores

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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Report Submitted To

Texas Department of Corrections Library

By

CONNIE HOUSE

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Matching the Library and the Inmate

DETERMINING INMATE INTERESTS IN ORDER TO BETTER REFINE LIBRARY SERVICES

Traditionally, selection of library materials and program planning for the incarcerated has been done, not through the eyes and experience of inmates, but by free world librarians, teachers and correctional personnel. Since inmates have informational and recreational reading needs that arise from their isolation, it is important to identify their interests. In this way, prison librarians can better determine the materials to select and purchase, the programs and services to continue or initiate, and the kind of educational consultive work to be done with the school staff.

In discussions with the Director of Library Services for Texas Department of Corrections, it was decided to give a general interest survey to ascertain the specific interests and reading desires of some Texas inmates. It was felt that this was the most efficient way to upgrade library service in the Texas prison Units. This report deals with a survey which focused on prisoners in one men's institution and one women's institution.

Before beginning the survey analysis, two basic facts must be established: One, no subjective speculations or interpretations of data will be made on the part of the researcher. This report deals with the statistical results (reported by sex and race) of the interest surveys. Secondly, it must be emphasized that the results of this interest study are not purported to be applicable to all inmates in Texas or in other States. The men's Unit, Ferguson, is one for first offenders, ages 17-21. It will be necessary to give similar interest or reading surveys to a random sample on each of the Texas prison units in order to determine the interests peculiar to each population. The results for the men's institution only may be applied successfully to similar groups according to age, race and educational level. The results of the women's study can be applied to more varied groups because the Goree Unit is the only women's unit in the state of Texas at present, and as such has a diverse, conglomerant population of all ages and offenses.

The Survey: The survey as given to the inmates was compiled using published and unpublished examples of other surveys and from a TDC Library survey, which had not been given to the inmates.

One attribute of giving a survey, reading or general interest, is that the researcher can readily locate bad wording in questions, new categories which should be added or questions which should be deleted. If a question is answered incorrectly by a large percentage of the respondees, inadequencies can be identified, either in wording or content. Also, write-ins and comments can help to determine new areas which should be included in future surveys. This researcher has attempted to point out flaws discovered in administering this survey, and suggest possible changes.

The Sample: The idea for the interest study was initiated during a nine week period when several Sam Houston State University graduate library science majors were conducting group book discussions with inmates on the Ferguson and Goree Units. The original reading project was an experimental study conducted through the Research Department of TDC to determine whether group book discussions help effect attitude changes. Therefore, for statistical purposes the initial sample was random, controlling for ability to read and expiration of sentence (not to be released prior to the end of the program, June, 1975). Meetings were held for these statistically random groups in which the program was explained, and afterwards inmates were asked to volunteer for the discussion program. It was unfortunate that men under 20 and Black women were reluctant to volunteer, because at the time the larger control group was randomly selected for the testing, it was impossible to balance the disproportionate groupings that had resulted with the first volunteer groups. Below is a statistical comparison of the inmates surveyed (sample) and the total inmates in each institution (population).

Ferguson - Men's Unit

	Age	Race		
	20 & under	White	Black	Chicano
Sample	37.29%	44.44%	39.28%	16.26%
Population	59.04%	43.36%	38.13%	18.50%

Goree - Women's Unit

	Age	Race		
	25 & under	White	Black	Chicana
Sample	34.11%	45.63%	39.28%	15.08%
Population	38.26%	32.89%	53.[illegible]%	12.71%

During the nine weeks of the reading sessions, the sample of Chicanos diminished in size; therefore the interest study can only be analyzed for Whites and Blacks. Most Chicanos were either transferred to other prison units, or did not show up on the day of the test. One Chicana even escaped during the nine week period! For the final week only five Chicanos

took the test. The researcher and the Director of the Library felt that it would be unfair to report any findings based on this low number. It will be necessary to retest another random sample at another date in order to determine the general interests of Chicanos.

Admittedly, the samples were small in actual numbers. 5% of the men's institution, and 11% of the women's institution were given the survey. The main defense in the size of the male sample is that almost all the inmates in the institution are between the ages of 17 and 21, and the sample is statistically comparable to the overall population in race. (refer to above table) Also, the offense most often cited in each institution is statistically similar: males - robbery - population 31.7%; sample 36.8%. Females - dangerous drugs - population 25.4%; sample 33.3%.

It appears important at this point to bring out differences in the manner in which the various groups responded to the survey. As a total group, the men were much more responsive than were the women. The male respondees left very few questions blank; on ranking questions, they ranked more of the categories; they added comments and explanations to answers; and in the "other" categories, they almost always wrote in additional choices or preferences. On the other hand, the women not only left questions blank, but unfortunately on many of the ranking questions, they only indicated their first choices. With the "other" categories, they seldom wrote in additional preferences.

As already explained, part of the sample on both units consisted of groups which were meeting weekly for reading and discussions. These groups, male and female, with which rapport had been established, answered the survey more conscientiously by following directions more closely and writing in fewer caustic remarks than did the larger control groups.

Question Analysis: The survey questions are presented in the following pages. They are grouped according to general categories of information, and not necessairly according to the order of appearance on the survey. The grouped categories are:

Reading Background Information
Books
Newspapers and Magazines
Television and Radio
Music
Other Background Information

Some questions are explained, some analyzed, and in some cases, the chart diagram stands without interpretation. The results are divided by race (excluding Chicanos) and sex.

READING BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**Here are some reasons people have for reading. Which are true for you? (Question 9)

	Males White	Males Black	Females White	Females Black
for information	50%	93%	70%	53%
for employment	14%	21%	-	13%
for enjoyment	93%	57%	60%	67%
to help with school work	36%	43%	20%	33%
to learn to do something	29%	43%	50%	20%
to get your mind off problmes	64%	50%	50%	33%
other, please specify	21%		10%	

This question was intended to have some built-in reliability for question 1 on the survey, "Why do you go to the library?" (see below) For all groups except White women, the results appear reliable. Males: White men cited their predominant reason for reading is for enjoyment, 93%, with the second reason being to get their minds off their problems, 64%. In question 1, pleasure reading and relaxation were the reasons ranked first for going to the library. Black men indicated by 93% that they read for information, with the next highest percentages falling under enjoyment and to get their minds off their problems. In question one, 43% ranked research their primary reason for going to the library. And, pleasure reading (43%) was in second place. Females: The White women's responses are pretty well distributed, with reading for information receiving the most responses (70%) and for enjoyment tne next (60%). But in question 1, they ranked pleasure reading as their first reason for attending the library. With the Black women the reliability factor seems to reappear, for 67% indicated that they read for enjoyment, and the same percentage ranked pleasure reading first in question 1 as to why they go to the library.

**Why do you go to the library? Rank in order: place 1 by the most important, 2 by the next, etc. (Question 1)

Males -- Ranked Choices

Males:	1st W	1st B	2nd W	2nd B	3rd W	3rd B	4th W	4th B	5th W	5th B
pleasure reading	64%	21%	7%	43%	14%	-	-	7%	-	-
school assignments	7%	21%	7%	14%	14%	14%	7%	7%	-	-
research	7%	43%	21%	7%	14%	-	7%	-	7%	-
relaxation	-	7%	36%	7%	7%	14%	14%	14%	-	-
don't go	7%	7%								
other	14%									

** indicates survey questions

Females:	Females -- Ranked Choices									
	W	B	W	B	W	B	W	B	W	B
pleasure reading	50%	67%	20%	7%	-	-	10%	7%	-	-
school assignments	10%	13%	10%	20%	-	13%	10%	-	10%	-
research	10%	-	-	13%	40%	7%	-	7%	-	-
relaxation	30%		30%		-		-		-	
don't go										
other										

None of the women indicated that they do not go to the library, while 14% of the White men and 7% of the Black men do not go. Pleasure reading is the primary reason most groups cite for going to the library.

**Often when people are learning to read or trying to improve their reading, they have problems of various kinds. What kinds of problems do you run into? (Question 10)

Vocabulary was by far the reason most listed by women and men. White M, 43%; Black M, 43%; White F, 10%; Black F, 47%. The men cited more difficulties in reading than did the women. Many of the women did not answer the question, while very few of the men left the question blank. Most males either indicated a problem or they wrote in "none." Some other specific problems listed were: not enough time to read, tired eyes, lack of good books, keeping mind on the subject, falling to sleep, noise, and understanding the subject content.

**How many books do you average reading? __per week __per month __per year (Question 20)

This question and the results must be disregarded because of the high proportion of incorrect, and sometimes absurd, answers. It apparently was not clear that the respondent was to answer only one blank, (which ever applied to his or her reading habits.) The question was answered incorrectly by 50% of the White males; 64%, Black males; 40%, White females; and 40%, Black females. These figures seem justification to either reword the question or delete it from future surveys.

**People like to read different things. Check the types you like to read most. Place a star (*) by your favorite. (Question 11)

	Paperback books	Hardback books	Comic books	Newspapers	Magazines
Males					
White	86%	29%	21%	36%	57%
Favorite	71%	7%		7%	29%
Black	79%	36%	21%	43%	64%
Favorite	29%	7%		7%	36%
Females					
White	90%	80%	-	60%	90%
Favorite	40%	30%		20%	10%
Black	47%	47%	27%	40%	53%
Favorite	20%	33%	7%	20%	20%

The above chart indicates not only the preferred types of material (by total responses), but also the percentage favoring each type. Some inmates starred more than one favorite type of reading material, while others did not star any. Males: 86% of the Whites like to read paperback books, and 71% named them as the favorite reading material. 79% of the Blacks prefer to read paperbacks, but magazines appeared as their favorite reading material, by 36%. Females: Paperbacks and magazines received an equal number of responses from the white women, 90% each. The indications for favorites were well distributed, with paperbacks receiving the most at 40%. With the Black women, magazines received the most responses, 53%. Again, the starred categories were well distributed, but hardback books are slightly favored (33%).

**Is there any book you would like to read that the library doesn't have? (Question 21)

Inmates were told before the testing began that this question would be treated as a specific request. 60% of the men turned in requests, and 33% of the women. The inmates' requests were forwarded to the Library Director so that processing could be done immediately.

**Do you know how to request a specific book from the Unit Library? (Question 22)

	Males		Females	
	White	Black	White	Black
Yes	50%	57%	40%	40%
No	50%	43%	40%	53%

The results of this question are important for the planning and scheduling of library orientation classes on the units.

**Would you want to take part in group book discussions sponsored by the library? (Question 27)

	Males		Females	
	White	Black	White	Black
Yes	79%	64%	[illegible]%	60%
No	14%	21%	10%	20%
Yes, but don't have time to read the books	7%	7%	10%	

Following are the results of questions concerning several interest areas: Books, Newspapers and Magazines, Television and Radio, and Music.

BOOKS

**What kind of books do you prefer to read? Rank in order of preference: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc. (Question 18)

Males -- Ranked Choices

	1st		2nd		3rd		4th		5th		6th		7th		8th		9th		10th		11th	
	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B
Males:																						
Fiction	50	29			28	7	7	14		7							7	7				
History		7	14	14		7	14	7	14	14	7	7										7
Western life	43	14	21	14	14				7		7			7		7						
Travel				7	14	7	36		7	7			14		7			7		7		
Religion					7	14								7		7		7	7		14	7
Poetry	7		7	7		7		14		7	7	7					7		7	7	14	7
Biography		7	21	7	14	7	7		7	7	7	7				7			7			
Psychology		14		14	7	7	7		14				21	7	7					7		7
Science	7	14			7	14		14	14	7	7	7							7			
Philosophy			7	7		7		7	7	14	7				14			7				
Sociology		7		7		7	14	14			14	7	7	7		7	14					
Other, please name		7	21																			

Females -- Ranked Choices

	1st		2nd		3rd		4th		5th		6th		7th		8th		9th		10th		11th	
	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B	%W	%B
Females:																						
Fiction	40	33	10	27	20		10	7												7		
History		7		13	10	20	20			7		7	10		10							
Western life	10					7			10				20		10							
Travel	10			7		7	20		10		10			7			10					
Religion			20				10				10					7	10	7				10
Poetry		27	10		20	13	20	7	10		10	7						7				
Biography	30	13	20	7		7		13	10		10											
Psychology			20	13	10	7		20	10	7						7			10			
Science		20			20			7	10										10			
Philosophy			10		10		10		10	13				7								10
Sociology				13		13	10		10	7	10				10					7		
Other, please name	10									7												

The main flaw with this inquiry is that not all the inmates ranked all the categories -- but, that should have been made mandatory in the instructions for the question. Males: Fiction, by 50%, is the first choice of White men, with western life taking second place, 43%. Other than 36% who ranked travel as their fourth choice of reading material, the answers were very dispersed. The "other" category included: Occult, sex books, and science fiction. (As an interesting aside, one science fiction buff wrote on his survey, "To be a science fiction writer, you have to build a new world, a new society and a new people.") Fiction is also the first choice of Black men, but not by as great a percentage, 29%. The other rankings were more scattered than for the White males.

Females: White women also prefer fiction, 40%, with biography second, 30%.

The rankings of the Black women are slightly more grouped than those for other inmates. Fiction was preferred by 33% as first choice and 27% as second choice. 27% also placed poetry in first place. Members of both groups of women inmates added art to the "other" category.

Because the rankings are so very scattered for the most part and because all choices were not ranked, it may be helpful to present the results of this question in another manner: by the percentage of total responses to each kind of book. In this way, it can be seen how many of the respondees used each kind of book in their considerations.

Percentage of Total Responses to Each Kind of Book

	Fict.	Hist.	West.	Trav.	Reli.	Poet.	Biog.	Psy.	Sci.	Phil.	Soc.	Other
Males												
White	93	50	93	79	29	50	64	57	43	36	50	21
Black	64	64	43	36	43	57	43	57	57	43	57	7
Females												
White	80	50	50	60	60	70	70	50	40	50	40	10
Black	73	53	7	20	13	60	40	53	27	20	40	7

**What kind of person do you like to read about or see in the movies? Place a star (*) by the kind you like most. (Question 19)

	Males				Females			
	W-Favorite		B-Favorite		W-Favorite		B-Favorite	
Beautiful or handsome	71%	21%	50%	7%	60%		27%	20%
One who has always had wealth	14%		21%		20%		-	
Poor	21%	7%	21%	7%	-		13%	
One from a rural area	14%		14%		40%	10%	-	
A religious person	7%		14%		10%		7%	
Mentally disturbed	7%		-		20%		13%	
Mentally superior	7%		29%		60%	20%	20%	
Ugly or plain	-		21%		10%		-	
One who becomes rich	50%		36%		70%	20%	7%	
Someone from the street	57%	29%	43%	21%	30%	20%	40%	13%
Bewitched; black magic	71%	29%	43%	29%	40%		33%	13%
Physically handicapped	7%		-		-		7%	
Physically superior	29%		7%		20%		-	
Sophisticated or "cool"	50%	7%	50%	14%	60%	20%	40%	20%

This discussion will place more emphasis on the total percentage of responses to each type of character, rather than on the indicated favorites, because many inmates, male and female, did not star a favorite, and some starred all of their responses. Males: All groups appear to like to read about beautiful or handsome people, with White males having the highest percentage of responses, 71%, and Black females the lowest. The same percentage of White men (71%) also indicated a preference for bewitched characters. Someone from the street (57%), one who becomes rich (50%), and one who is sophisticated or cool (50%), also are pre-

ferences of this group. As stated, Black males also prefer to read about beautiful or handsome characters, (50%). The sophisticated or cool character also received 50% of the responses. Those two categories placing second for Black males were bewitched and someone from the street, both 43%. Females: White women prefer, only by 10%, to read about people who become rich, 70% total responses. Three categories received 60% each of the responses: beautiful or handsome, mentally superior, sophisticated or cool. The preferences of the Black women, at 40% each, are someone from the street and someone who is sophisticated or cool. The bewitched category is second at 33%, and beautiful or handsome, third, at 27%.

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

**Do you read a newspaper...(check one) (Question 6)

	Males		Females	
	White	Black	White	Black
Everyday	43%	43%	50%	20%
A few times a week	28%	21%	30%	53%
About once a week	14%	21%		13%
Sundays only	7%			
Less than any of the above	7%		20%	13%

**When you read a newspaper, which of the following sections do you read? (Question 7)

	Males		Females	
	White	Black	White	Black
News about world affairs	57%	36%	70%	53%
Weather	29%	21%	30%	20%
Comics	57%	36%	50%	33%
Sports	50%	64%	30%	33%
Women's section	-	14%	80%	7%
Editorials	36%	21%	70%	27%
Letters to the editor	21%	14%	60%	13%
Stocks and bonds	7%	-	30%	-
Advertisements	21%	14%	40%	27%
News about civil rights	14%	36%	50%	47%
Death notices	29%	14%	-	13%
News - politics and govt.	21%	29%	60%	47%
Book reviews	7%	-	20%	-
Movie news	43%	7%	40%	33%
Your horoscope	57%	29%	80%	80%
Advice to the lovelorn	7%	7%	40%	27%
Television news	36%	14%	20%	40%

The interpretations for the above charts concerning newspapers are obvious upon examination.

**What magazines do you like to read? (Question 8)

	Males		Females	
	White	Black	White	Black
Readers Digest	57%	29%	70%	13%
Ebony	-	93%	20%	93%
News	36%	57%	50%	47%
Women's-Houskeeping	-	7%	70%	33%
Women's-Glamour	-	14%	50%	53%
Men's	100%	64%	20%	33%
Sports	57%	50%	40%	27%
Movie or Television	-	14%	30%	27%
Love and romance	14%	29%	30%	33%
Religious	7%	7%	30%	13%
Trade magazines	43%	36%	20%	7%
Others, please name	57%	29%	50%	-

As seen in the analysis on preference of type of reading material (Question 6), all groups of inmates indicated preferences for magazines; therefore the results of this question become very important since the Windham libraries do not at present furnish a wide variety of magazine titles on the Units.

The wording of the question was inconsistent; either all choices should have been specific magazine titles or they should have all been subject areas. For future surveys this flaw should be corrected.

Several racial differences in the preference of magazines occur: Black magazines such as Ebony - White M, 0%; Black M, 93%; White F, 20%; Black F, 93%. Preferences for Reader's Digest produced wide racial differences - White M, 57%; Black M, 29%; White F, 70%; Black F, 13%. Other differences that appear are more pronounced by sex; these are evident with women's magazines, men's magazines, movie and television, and love and romance.

All groups except the Black women listed other magazine titles they liked: Males: Rolling Stone, Hit Parade, Science Fiction Analog, Street Chopper, Easy Rider, Circus, Creem, Guitar Player, Jet, Players, Sepia, Black Stars and western types. Females: National Geographic, Holiday, Saturday Review, Fortune, Viva, Harper's, People and National Lampoon.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

**On the radio, do you listen to... (Question 26)

	Males		Females	
	White	Black	White	Black
News and weather	21%	64%	80%	47%
Sports	21	43	10	33
Talk and interview programs	14	7	20	20
Music	93	93	90	73
Religious programs	7	14	10	27
Other, please name.				

**Check the television programs which you prefer to watch. (Question 25)

	Males		Females	
	White	Black	White	Black
News and weather	29%	57%	50%	53%
News specials	21	43	40	13
Sports	21	64	10	47
As the World Turns	-	7	10	20
Star Trek	36	21	10	7
The Lucy Show	14	14	10	7
Sanford and Son	43	93	40	60
Flip Wilson Show	21	64	50	80
Talk Shows	7	7	30	20
Sesame Street	-	7	10	-
Merv Griffin Show	7	7	10	13
Days of our Lives	-	7	20	7
Mash	50	7	20	13
60 Minutes	21	21	10	-
Maud	14	21	30	13
The Waltons	36	21	60	27
Gunsmoke	64	29	30	13
Movies	79	71	60	60
Cartoons	50	21	20	13
Ironsides	-	14	40	20
The Untouchables	50	29	30	33
All in the Family	36	21	30	40
Chico and the Man	21	14	30	13
Entertainment specials	21	43	40	33
Quiz shows	7	7	10	40
The Doctors	-	7	-	7
Somerset	-	-	10	-
Soul Train	14	100	30	93
Community Forum	-	-	-	7
Oral Roberts; Billy Graham	7	7	10	-
Columbo (Mystery Theater)	29	50	60	53
Others; name.	57	14	20	13

The similarities and differences of the inmate groups in choices for TV programs can be observed easily in the above chart.

Because of the vast number of different television programs, this was a difficult question to formulate; finally it was decided to borrow a television-oriented inquiry from another interest survey. It still has not been decided whether the answer choices should be uniform by title or type, or if the mixed question (as given in this survey) is an adequate one.

MUSIC

**Now, a question about music: do you enjoy... (Question 23)

	Males		Females	
	White	Black	White	Black
Country	43%	7%	80%	
Rock and roll	93	57	90	27
Jazz	29	86	50	60
Classical	21	14	50	7
Progressive country	71	7	60	7
Soul	29	93	70	73
Religious	14	43	30	20
Folk	36		30	13
Other, please name.	7			

**Do you play any musical instruments? If yes, what kind(s)? (Question 24)

	Males		Females	
	White	Black	White	Black
Yes	36%	57%	40%	13%
No	57	43	40	80
Guitar	36	14	20	7
Piano		14	30	13
Clarinet			10	
Saxophone		14		
Harmonica	29		10	
Trumpet		7		
Drums	14	36	10	
Trombone				
Other, please name.	7	7	10	

Since inmates in three of the four groups wrote in "organ," it would seem that the term should be added to the list of musical instruments in future surveys.

OTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**When you have free time here at TDC, do you prefer to... (Question 12)

	Males		Females	
	White	Black	White	Black
Study	14%	21%	30%	13%
Read a book or magazine	64	57	60	67
Talk to friends	21	36	30	47
Write letters	43	29	50	33
Play cards or other games	14	36	10	33
Watch TV or listen to the radio	50	43	70	47
Sleep	43	21	10	
Workout in the gym	43	43	20	
Other, specify.	7	7	20	13

This question elicited the most responses from all groups for most inmates marked multiple ways in which they pass their time. Reading a book or magazine during free time is a preference for all groups, with

three groups giving it the highest percentage of responses. White M, 64%; Black M, 57%; Black F, 67%. White women, who slightly favor watching TV, 70%, gave reading a close second at 60%. Since several women, both Black and White, wrote in crochet, knit, etc. in the "other" category, an activity such as "Crafts and hobbies" should be added to future surveys. Also, a few of the men added activities such as "leatherwork." Interestingly, one man commented that his favorite past time is "observing people."

The following three questions are classified as rapport building, and will not be analyzed in this research report. Although the Windham School District Librarians felt they possibly could use some selected information from the results, the main purpose for the questions was to show interest in the inmates as individuals. Because the nature of the questions is to help develop rapport, it is suggested by the researcher that this section of questions be arranged earlier in the questionaire, possibly as the first or second section.

**What kind of work have you done in the free world? (Question 13)

**What kind of work are you doing at TDC now? (Question 14)

**What is the last grade you completed in school? (Question 15)

What age were you when you left school?

What reasons did you have for leaving school? (You may have had more than one reason.)

(for a complete list of reasons, refer to questionaire, Attachment 1)

The first part of Question 15, concerning last grade completed in school, is useful in selection of library materials, but the Research Department of TDC can obtain accurate information from the data banks on the inmates. Again, the question, especially the last part dealing with reasons for leaving school, was aimed at showing personal interest in the inmates. Most answer choices are loaded with emotion or convenient excuses, but many of the inmates, both men and women, wrote in their own reasons for leaving school. For example, "just got tired," "got in trouble with the law," "Got married," "acid head, couldn't handle school."

**What games do you enjoy? (Question 16)

	Males		Females	
	White	Black	White	Black
Cards	64%	71%	40%	67%
Dominos	86	50		46
Pool	93	93	60	80
Checkers	14	50		7
Board games	14	14	10	13
Bowling	43	50	70	53
Other, please name.	36	14	20	

Several games were listed in the "other" category, some of which can be included in future surveys: archery, backgammon, foosball, dice (listed by 20%, total inmates), and chess. Since field sports (baseball, football, etc.) were not included in the answer choices, several inmates listed them, also.

It seems that the compilers of the survey were negligent in the wording of this question, because the items listed were not a good representation of all types of game activities. The question needs to be reworded for future surveys.

**Which place(s) would you like to travel and/or visit? (Question 17)

	Males		Females	
	White	Black	White	Black
Asia	7%	36%	40%	7%
Europe	71	50	40	60
United States	14	14	30	20
Central America	14	36	20	20
Africa	14	86	30	40
Australia	57	29	30	7
South America	21	50	50	27
Canada	43	43	60	20
Others, please name.	14	36	20	7

The following questions deal with background information concerning library usage. As stated earlier, one of the things a researcher learns in administering an interest survey is how to refine the survey, by adding or deleting categories or by rewording questions. In most instances with the next series of questions, certain information was sought, but due to non-specific wording of the questions, the possibility is recognized that the results may not be valid percentages in terms of what the survey compilers were seeking. Perhaps the questions could have been worded differently, or left out altogether. Also, it is possible that the questions should have occupied different positions in the survey.

**Did you ever use the public library in the free world? (Question 2)

	White-M	Black-M	White-F	Black-F
Yes	57%	64%	70%	67%
No	43%	36%	20%	33%

The information desired was whether these people regularly used the public library. Perhaps the information could have been gained more accurately if a time element had been included in the question. i.e. once a week, once a month, etc.

**Have you ever been taught how to use a library? (Question 3)

	White-M	Black-M	White-F	Black-F
Yes	50%	64%	90%	67%
No	50%	36%	10%	33%

The information desired by the Windham Librarians for the planning and scheduling of orientation classes, was whether the inmates had ever received formal instruction in the use of a library. It is felt that the question was not specific enough in the type of instruction the individual has previously had.

**Do you know how to find material in this Unit library? (Question 4)

	White-M	Black-M	White-F	Black-F
Yes	57%	93%	80%	73%
No	43%	7%	10%	27%

This question appears to be specific enough, and therefore the results valid. But, the confusing fact remains that during the discussion sessions after the survey, many inmates complained that they could not find books in the libraries.

**Did your free world school have any kind of library? (Question 5)

Did you use it often?

	White-M	Black-M	White-F	Black-F
Yes	93%	100%	80%	93%
No	7%		10%	7%
Yes	64%	64%	60%	40%
No	36%	36%	30%	60%

It is unfortunate that the wording in the first part of this question was "any kind of library." While the compilers of the survey were thinking of organized libraries housed as separate units in the school, some inmates may have interpreted a library quite differently: During discussion one inmate commented on his school library, "I used the library alot. My history teacher had a couple of shelves of books in his room and we used them for papers and book reports."

In the last part of the question, "Did you use it often?", the term "often" should have been defined with a time element, as with the use of the public library.

SUMMATION

The work of formulating, giving and analyzing this survey has been an invaluable experience in terms of discovering pertinent, useful information about inmate interests. As a result of gaining this knowledge, library services can be greatly upgraded and expanded on the Ferguson and Goree Units. Also, through the inmate responses, a good deal was gained in understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the present survey. For future use, it is recommended that the questionnaire be refined and the order of some questions changed as suggested in this report.

It is further recommended that the Texas Department of Corrections/ Windham School District Librarians administer an interest survey to a random sample of Chicanos on Ferguson and Goree Units. In addition, it will be valuable to survey interests in the other prison units in order to better refine library services in all areas of selecting and programming.

Survey Compiled by:

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Administered by:

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LIBRARY INTEREST SURVEY

1. Why do you go to the library? Rank in order. Place 1 by the most important, 2 by the next, etc.

___Pleasure reading
___School assignments
___Research
___Relaxation
___Don't go
___Other

2. Did you ever use the public library in the free world?

___Yes ___No

3. Have you ever been taught how to use a library?

___Yes ___No

4. Do you know how to find material in this Unit library?

___Yes ___No

5. Did your free world school have any kind of library?

___Yes ___No

Did you use it often?

___Yes ___No

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

6. Do you read a newspaper...(check one)

___Everyday
___A few times a week
___About once a week
___Sundays only
___less than any of above

7. When you read a newspaper, which of the following sections do you read?

___News about world affairs
___Weather
___Comics
___Sports
___Women's section
___Editorials
___Letters to the editor
___Stocks and bonds
___advertisements (store ads, want ads, etc.)
___News about civil rights
___Death notices
___News about politics and government
___Book reviews
___Movie news
___Your horoscope
___Advice to the lovelorn
___Television news

8. What magazines do you like to read?

___Reader's Digest
___Ebony
___News (Time, News Week, U.S. News, etc.)
___Women's housekeeping (Ladies Home Journal, McCalls, Good Housekeeping)
___Women's glamour (Glamour, Mademoiselle, Seventeen)

___Men's (Playboy, Esquire, True, Argosy)

___Sports (Sports Illustrated, Field and Stream)

___Movie or television (Modern Screen)

___Love and romance (True Stories)

___Religious (Religious Herald, Upper Room)

___Trade magazines (Mechanix Illustrated, Electronics)

___Others. Please name.

READING BACKGROUND

9. Here are some reasons people have for reading. Which are true for you?

___For information

___For employment

___for enjoyment

___to help with school work

___To learn to do something

___To get your mind off problems

___Other, please specify.

10. Often when people are learning to read or trying to improve their reading, they have problems of various kinds. What kinds of problems do you run into?

11. People like to read different things. Check the types you like to read most. Place a star (*) by your favorite.

___Paperback books

___Hardback books

___Comic books

___Newspapers

___Magazines

___Other. Specify.

OTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

12. When you have free time here at TDC do you prefer to...

___Study

___Read a book or magazine

___Talk to friends

___Write letters

___Play cards or other games

___Watch TV or listen to the radio

___Sleep

___Workout in the gym

___Other. Specify.

13. What kind of work have you done in the free world?

14. What kind of work are you doing at TDC now?

15. What is the last grade you completed in school? _____

What age were you when you left school? _____

What reasons did you have for leaving school? (you may have had more than one reason.)

ANSWER CHOICES ON THE NEXT PAGE

___Graduated
___Expelled
___Disturbances in school
___Illness in family
___Had to support self
___Wanted extra spending money
___Married
___Feeling that school did not meet personal needs
___Was getting poor grades in school
___Trouble with teachers or school authorities
___Own Illnesses
___Other family problems
___Had to support family
___Military service
___Pregnant
___Other, please specify.

16. What games do you enjoy?

___Cards
___Dominos
___Pool
___Checkers
___Board games
___Bowling
___Other. Please name.

17. Which place(s) would you like to travel and/or visit?

___Asia
___Europe
___United States
___Central America
___Africa
___Australia
___South America
___Canada
Other(s). Please name.

BOOKS

18. What kind of books do you prefer to read? Rank in order of preference; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc.

___Fiction
___History
___Western life
___Travel
___Religion
___Poetry
___Biography
___Psychology
___Science
___Philosophy
___Sociology
___Other. Please name.

19. What kind of person do you like to read about or see in the movies? Check all that apply. Place a star (*) by the kind you like most.

___Beautiful or handsome
___One who has always had wealth
___Poor
___One from a rural area
___A religious person
___Mentally disturbed
___Mentally superior (a brain)
___Ugly or plain
___One who becomes rich
___Someone from the street
___Bewitched; black magic
___Physically handicapped
___Physically superior
___Sophisticated or "cool"

20. How many books do you average reading?

___per week ___per month ___per year

21. Is there any book you would like to read that the library doesn't have?

___No ___Yes If yes, what?_____

22. Do you know how to request a specific book from the unit library?

___Yes ___No

MUSIC

23. Now, a question about music. Do you enjoy...

___Country
___Rock and roll
___Jazz
___Classical
___Progressive country
___Soul
___Religious
___Folk
___Other, please name.

24. Do you play any musical instruments?

___Yes ___No

If yes, what kind(s)?

___Guitar
___Piano
___Clarinet
___Saxophone
___Harmonica
___Trumpet
___Drums
___Trombone
___Other, please name.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

25. Check the television programs which you prefer to watch.

___News and weather
___News specials
___Sports
___As the World Turns
___Star Trek
___The Lucy Show
___Sanford and Son
___Flip Wilson Show
___Talk shows
___Sesame Street
___Merv Griffin Show
___Days of Our Lives
___Mash
___60 Minutes
___Maud
___The Waltons
___Gunsmoke
___Movies
___Cartoons
___Ironsides
___The Untouchables
___All in the Family
___Chico and the Man
___Entertainment specials
___Quiz shows
___The Doctors
___Somerset
___Soul Train
___Community Forum
___Oral Roberts; Billy Graham
___Columbo (Mystery Theater)
___Others. Name.

26. On the radio, do you listen to...

___News and weather ___Music

___Sports ___Religious programs

___Talk and interview programs ___Others. Please name.

JUST QUESTIONS

27. Would you want to take part in group book discissions sponsored by the library?

___Yes ___No

___Yes, but don't have time to read the books.

28. Will you give some information about yourself?

___Age

Race: (circle one)

White Black Chicano Asian American Native American Other, Specify

Marital status: (circle one)

Married Unmarried

___Number of children, if any

Your Offense: